



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
**Two Gateway Center**  
**Newark, NJ 07102**  
***www.bpu.state.nj.us***

Customer Assistance

James and Rayna Cuffee,

Petitioners,

v.

Atlantic City Electric Company,

Respondent.

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ORDER ADOPTING  
INITIAL DECISION

BPU Docket No. EC98111254U  
OAL Docket No. PUC 12059-99

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On November 1, 1998, James and Rayna Cuffee (Petitioners) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) with respect to a billing dispute with Atlantic City Electric Company (Respondent). The Petitioner alleged electric service billed in the wrong category for the period between 1972 and 1997, allegedly resulting in \$9,539.00 in overbilling. On December 3, 1999, the Respondent filed an answer in which it denied the allegations.

On December 10, 1999, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for determination and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. The matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Solomon Metzger.

Settlement conferences scheduled in May, June, and September 2000 were adjourned for good cause shown. A settlement conference conducted by ALJ Metzger on November 17, 2000 did not result in a settlement. Thereafter, the matter was transferred to ALJ Joseph F. Fidler. A hearing was held on March 13, 2002 and the record closed on May 14, 2002. The time for filing of an Initial Decision was extended by Orders of Extension.

On September 24, 2002, ALJ Fidler filed an Initial Decision in which he concluded that the petitioners were billed in the correct category and therefore are not entitled to relief.

After review, the Board FINDS that the Initial Decision is fair and reasonable. Therefore, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS the Initial Decision in its entirety, incorporating the terms thereof into this final decision as if fully set forth at length herein.

DATED: 11/22/02

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

SIGNED

JEANNE M. FOX  
PRESIDENT

SIGNED

FREDERICK F. BUTLER  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

CAROL J. MURPHY  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

CONNIE O. HUGHES  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

JACK ALTER  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: SIGNED

KRISTI IZZO  
SECRETARY

James and Rayna Cuffee v. Atlantic City Electric Company

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